INFO WRAPUP

NEW PRODUCTS

ERASO-LABELS

In our ongoing search for the perfect label, a company called *Dataware* is marketing some that are strong contenders for the top spot. Instead of being cleanly removable (though they are that, too) they are erasable. You mark them with a special indelible pen. Then, if you want to change it later, the markings can be removed with another special erasing pen. Sounds like a good solution, providing you can keep track of the pens. In addition to disk labels in both 3" and 5" sizes, there are also videotape labels available. The label systems are a bit pricey at $9.95 for 12 disk labels and $14.95 for 10 video labels. 7570 Renwick, Houston, TX 77081. 713-432-1023.

NEW GENLOCK

A new genlock has appeared in the Amiga marketplace. The GEN/ONE from Communications Specialties provides Super VHS Y/C and RS-170A output as well as RGB. The RGB levels are directly controllable. A pair of comb filters are provided to clean up the chroma signal without degrading the luminance. It has an external power supply and retails for $895. 89A Cabot Court, Hauppauge, NY 11788. 516-273-0404.

NEW SERVICES

GEnie, General Electric's online service, has added two new services to their repertoire. **QuikNews** will search GEnie's NewsGrid area and automatically send stories matching your search criteria to your EMail address. The logical operators 'and' and 'or' are provided to narrow the search a bit. The service costs $25/month for 10 entries in the subscriber's list of criteria; each additional search term is $1. If you want to get into the **Official Airline Guide**, GEnie has added access to it for a $.17 (non-prime) surcharge. You can access schedules for over 600 airlines and get information on 37,500 hotels in various places around the planet. 1-800-638-9636.

AM I BLUE?

Orion Research publishes several Industry Blue Books of used electronic equipment prices. Mark wheedled a copy of the Computer Blue Book ($99.50) out of them, and it's full of interesting INFO. For example, it lists a used 1571 disk drive in mint condition as being worth $99. A used Amiga 1000 is $381. Other volumes cover audio equipment, car stereo, video, and even guitars. 1315 Main Ave., Suite 230, Durango, CO 81301. 303-247-8855.

MORE SERVICES

PeopleLink has added two new forums. **DEPOT** offers an area devoted to desktop publishing and has a downloadable collection of filler pieces, PD clipart, and other such, as well as a place do talk to others about the technology. **ACE** gives job shop managers a place to discuss the problems of costing, production control, accounting, and the other headaches associated with using technology effectively. 165 N. Canal St., Suite 950, Chicago, IL 60606. 800-

KEEPING PERSPECTIVE

Commodore computing could disappear tomorrow and it probably wouldn't affect unemployment statistics, the GNP, or the Dow Jones Average much. There'd be a 15 second news spot on CNN, Max Toy would mail out some resumes, and we'd all have to find a new hobby. Truth is, Commodore computing is small potatoes when compared with the economic weight of - well, say potatoes. Last year, Americans bought 80 lbs of potatoes apiece, but less than one in 500 bought a Commodore computer. Farmers raised 20 million tons of spuds, and Commodore built about a million computers. That means you could bury each new Commodore computer under 20 tons of potatoes. Think about it.

DESSERTS COOKBOOK
$14.95 ☆☆
VARIETY COOKBOOK
$14.95 ☆☆

Meggido Enterprises
PO Box 3020-191
Riverside, CA 92519-3020
714-683-5666

Cookbooks on disk are a wonderful idea. There are, however, a few basic things that are essential for recipe collections to be of value. First, a computer cookbook should be able to scale recipes. It should also have defaults that produce enough portions to be useful. (A recipe for six fortune cookies is about as much use as Nerf chopsticks.) And finally, there should be some way to search through the recipes with some criteria - in other words, you tell the cookbook what ingredients you have on hand, and it tells you what you can make.

These disks from Meggido for the Amiga have none of these necessary functions. They are strictly ASCII files, with nothing but the *More* text reader included. Most of the recipes are very small; most cooks would rather not have to double (or triple) a recipe before starting to cook. I also have some serious reservations on whether some of the recipes will work with the proportions listed. A case in point is the recipe for Potato Rolls. It makes only six (!?), and one teaspoon of yeast is a borderline amount for good results. In extremely small-yield recipes, there is little margin for error.

If you are in need of a recipe book, go to a bookstore and spend your $14.95 on a good hardcopy book. Don't waste your money on these disks.

- Tom Malcom

INFO WRAPUP

OTHER MACHINES

APPLE profits dipped lower than originally projected for the fourth quarter of 1988, due mostly to Apple's panic buy of DRAM chips at inflated prices during the DRAM shortage last year. The resultant high prices of Macintoshes incorporating the pricey chips hurt fourth quarter sales. In the first quarter of this year, however, Apple announced price reductions on several Mac systems, and also announced several new Mac models, which should help turn around the trend. New Mac system announcements are expected to continue throughout the year, including the anticipated announcement of Apple's own portable Macintosh sometime this summer.

APPLE is also on the receiving end of a trademark infringement suit filed by -- get this -- the Beatles! It seems the Beatles' record company, Apple Corps Inc., granted Apple Computer the right to use the Apple name back in 1981, as long as they stayed out of the music business. The Beatles now say that the inclusion of sophisticated sound synthesis chips in the Apple IIGS and newer Macintosh models, as well as the aggressive marketing of those computers in the music market under the "Apple" name, violates the agreement they signed eight years ago. If the Beatles win the suit, they could be entitled to royalty payments of from 1%-5% on sales of Apple computers.

ATARI has admitted that buying the faltering Federated Stores chain was a big financial mistake, and at presstime was attempting to sell the unprofitable division. Losses from Federated have kept Atari in the red since the chain was purchased. Atari has filed a lawsuit against Federated's former owners, claiming the chain was misrepresented to them.

IBM has so far failed to establish a new standard with their MicroChannel bus architecture; third parties have shown overwhelming disdain for the bus design. Industry analysts agree that without major third party acceptance of the PS/2 series architecture, IBM faces a continuing uphill battle against the established base of XT and AT MS/DOS machines. Meantime, IBM's most popular new PS/2 machine has been the model 50, their lowest-priced MicroChannel computer, which is considered by many to be too underpowered to run the new speed and memory intensive OS/2 operating system. Model 50s are in short supply, and INFOWorld and other sources speculate that IBM may be phasing them out to increase sales of higher-end PS/2 systems more suited to running OS/2.

IBM has named a successor to the too-talkative Bill Lowe, the former president of IBM's personal computer division whose "glasnost" policy of talking about new products and sales strategies well in advance of their implementation were blamed with hurting sales of the PS/2 series. The new president, James Cannavino, is reported to be from the more traditional tight-lipped IBM mold.

INFOmania GAME TIPS

Here are more game tips for INFO subscribers only!

C64

Ikari Warriors: Entering CHAMP at the high score screen will make you invincible. - Paul McLeod

Monopoly: While playing several computer opponents, go into Trade mode. Select the properties you want, but instead of giving the opponent money, ask for money instead. You will wind up with not only the cash, but the properties as well. - Ariel Baez D.

Neuromancer: To take a shortcut to the confrontation with the evil super-AI, go to the screen with the ruins on it, the one between the Lawbot and the high-tech area. Go to the left of the screen and go down to see a startling revelation (be sure your money is all uploaded to your Zurich account first). Then sell a minor body part to get the money to download about $1000 from the account. Then enter cyberspace. Be sure you are absolutely prepared. The AI has no weaknesses. -Tim Schulz

AMIGA

Menace: Type in XR3ITURBO-NUTTERBASTARD to get infinite lives and replenish your shield, lasers, and cannons. It can be repeated. - Jeremy Weinstein

Sword of Sodan: If you boot with disk #3, you'll see a special scrolling screen with thanks from its creator, Soren Gronbech, and information on how the game was created. - John Arnold

RUMOR MILL

➢ We've seen viruses on at least a half dozen new commercial programs since the first of the year. The SCA Virus is (after all this time) still the most prevalent, though we've seen the Byte Bandit and Byte Warrior viruses, too. We also thought we had every disk in our library cleaned up, but we recently found viruses lurking on two or three old archive disks. Keep your guard up -- computer viruses are *not* a thing of the past!

➢ Is it true that AmigaWorld's in-house wordprocessor is... *TextCraft*???